

SWAC
WASTE REDUCTION/RECYCLING SUBCOMMITTEE
Friday, February 20, 2004
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Subcommittee Members Attending:

Mark Hooper, Chair
Robert Beckwith
Shirley Shimada
Judy Stenberg

Staff/Guests:

Sharon Aller
Jeff Gaisford
Beth Humphreys
Donna Miscolta
Bill Reed

Meeting Notes:

- 1. Electronics Legislation.** Beth Humphreys, Division staff, provided some follow-up information about the electronics legislation previously discussed in the full SWAC meeting. In the previous meeting, it had been noted that the amount of electronics collected in new electronics programs was less than had been projected. The subcommittee commented that this could indicate reluctance by the public to dispose of expensive equipment that people think should still have value. The subcommittee suggested that more publicity is needed about recycling opportunities, and suggested including information in school education programs. Beth stated that the Division will continue to work in 2004 on informing the Council and the public about product stewardship alternatives for managing electronics.

- 2. School Programs.** Donna Miscolta, Division staff, gave an overview of the Division's programs to educate teachers and students about waste reduction and recycling (WRR) and management of household hazardous waste (HHW).

The WRR School Programs include the following components:

- An **assembly program** focusing on WRR and habitat. The program is delivered to 50 elementary schools per year, reaching over 20,000 students per year. The 2003-2004 school year is the last year for the current assembly program, and ideas for a new show are being developed.

- 150 **classroom workshops** have been delivered to 3,600 elementary school students; topics have included recycling, reuse, litter, habitat, smart shopping, and worm bins. Secondary school workshops are also provided. 30 – 40 **Green Teams** are formed each year in elementary schools. This year they are being introduced in secondary schools.

The HHW School Programs include the following components:

- Four to five **teacher training** sessions are held per year, with 75-90 teachers trained. Mini-grants are available for projects, and teachers are taken on a field trip to the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- About 30 **classroom presentations** reach 900 students each year. The presentations include a label-reading exercise to help students identify and properly handle hazardous products
- **Program for Early Parent Support (PEPS)** provides presentations to teen parents about hazardous household products.

The Division's Earth Heroes at School program coordinates an annual awards event to honor outstanding work by students, teachers, and schools to enhance the environment and/or environmental learning. 2004 nominations are due March 5.

3. Northwest Natural Yard Days. Sharon Aller, Division staff, gave a preview of the upcoming 2004 Northwest Natural Yard Days program. The program involves working with retail partners throughout all of western Washington to offer environmentally friendly products at discounted prices. Two focuses of this year's campaign will be moss management products and slug management products. An updated edition of the Natural Yard Care brochure prepared by King County other regional partners was handed out. Sharon also discussed a recent federal district court ruling banning the use of dozens of pesticides near salmon-bearing streams.